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Partial differential equations

# Stability of ODE blow-up for the energy critical semilinear heat equation

## *Stabilité de l'explosion type EDO pour l'équation de la chaleur énergie critique*

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### ABSTRACT

We consider the energy critical semilinear heat equation

$$\partial_t u = \Delta u + |u|^{\frac{4}{d-2}} u, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

in dimension  $d \geq 3$ . We propose a self-contained proof of the stability of solutions  $u$  blowing-up in finite time with type-I ODE blow-up

$$\|u\|_{L^\infty} \sim \kappa(T-t)^{\frac{d-2}{4}}, \quad T > 0, \quad \kappa := \left(\frac{d-2}{4}\right)^{\frac{d-2}{4}}$$

which adapts to the energy critical case the proof of Fermanian, Merle, Zaag [4].

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### RÉSUMÉ

Nous considérons l'équation de la chaleur énergie critique

$$\partial_t u = \Delta u + |u|^{\frac{4}{d-2}} u, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

en dimension  $d \geq 3$ . Nous proposons une preuve auto-contenue de la stabilité du régime explosif de type EDO

$$\|u\|_{L^\infty} \sim \kappa(T-t)^{\frac{d-2}{4}}, \quad T > 0, \quad \kappa := \left(\frac{d-2}{4}\right)^{\frac{d-2}{4}}$$

qui adapte au cas énergie critique la preuve de Fermanian, Merle, Zaag [4].

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## 1. Introduction and main result

We consider the energy critical semilinear heat equation

$$(NLH) \begin{cases} \partial_t u = \Delta u + |u|^{p-1}u, & p = p_c := \frac{d+2}{d-2}, \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x) \in \mathbb{R} \end{cases}, \quad (t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d. \quad (1.1)$$

We refer to [2,15,13] for the initial value problem and a complete introduction to this kind of models. Solutions may become unbounded in finite time  $T$

$$\|u(t)\|_{L^\infty} \rightarrow +\infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow T,$$

an explicit example being given by the constant in space ODE blow-up solution

$$u(t, x) = \frac{\kappa_p}{(T-t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}, \quad \kappa_p = \left(\frac{1}{p-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}, \quad \partial_t u = u^p. \quad (1.2)$$

Solutions blowing up with a self similar growth

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow T} \|u(t)\|_{L^\infty} (T-t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} < +\infty \quad (1.3)$$

are called type-I blow-up solutions and have attracted considerable attention in the past twenty years [4,6–12]. It is in particular known that in the energy subcritical range  $1 < p < p_c$ , any blow-up is of type I and that the set of blow-up solutions is open in any reasonable topology. We consider in this paper the energy critical case  $p = p_c$ , for which other blow-up dynamics have been constructed [5,14]. The result of this paper is that type-I blow-up is however still stable and described by the ODE blow-up (1.2).

**Theorem 1.1** (Stability of type-I blow-up,  $p = p_c$ ). *The set of solutions blowing-up in finite time with type-I blow-up (1.3) is open in  $W^{3,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .*

**Remark 1.2.** The topology  $W^{3,\infty}$  is not essential because of the parabolic regularizing effects. In particular, Theorem 1.1 implies the corresponding stability in  $L^q(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $q \geq \frac{2d}{d-2}$ , where (1.1) is also well-posed.

Theorem 1.1 is one of the key steps in the recent result of classification of the flow near the family of ground states (radially symmetric stationary solutions) [3]. Its proof is given in [4] in the energy subcritical range  $p < p_c$  using Liouville classification arguments of the constant self-similar solution. We closely follow the argument that however requires sharpening a number of estimates, and the purpose of this note is to present a self-contained proof of these improvements. Section 3 follows [4]. In Section 4, a local control of a solution by a local energy, given without a proof in [4], which is Proposition 4.2 here, is more subtle due to the energy critical feature.

**Notations.** The heat kernel is denoted by  $K_t(x) := \frac{1}{(4\pi t)^{\frac{d}{2}}} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4t}}$ . We forget the dependence in  $p$  in the notation of the constants in what follows.

## 2. Some known properties of type-I blow-up

A point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is said to be a blow-up point for  $u$  blowing up at time  $T$  if there exists  $(t_n, x_n) \rightarrow (T, x)$  such that:

$$|u(t_n, x_n)| \rightarrow +\infty \text{ as } n \rightarrow +\infty.$$

A fundamental fact is the rigidity for solutions satisfying the type-I blow-up estimate (1.3) that are global backward in time.

**Proposition 2.1** (Liouville-type theorem for type-I blow-up [11,12]). *Let  $u$  be a solution to (1.1) on  $(-\infty, 0] \times \mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $\|u\|_{L^\infty} \leq C(-t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}$  for some constant  $C > 0$ , then there exists  $T \geq 0$  such that  $u = \pm \frac{\kappa}{(T-t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}$ , where  $\kappa$  is defined in (1.2).*

We recall a precise description of type-I blow-up, with an asymptotic at a blow-up point and an ODE type characterization.

**Lemma 2.2** (Description of type-I blow-up [9,11,12]). *Let  $u$  solve (1.1) with  $u_0 \in W^{2,\infty}$  blowing up at  $T > 0$ . The three following properties are equivalent:*

(i) the blow-up is of type I;

$$(ii) \exists K > 0, \quad |\Delta u| \leq \frac{1}{2}|u|^p + K \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, T]; \quad (2.1)$$

$$(iii) \|u\|_{L^\infty(T-t)}^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \rightarrow \kappa \text{ as } t \rightarrow T. \quad (2.2)$$

Moreover, if  $u$  blows up with type I at  $x$ , then

$$(T-t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} u(t, x + y\sqrt{T-t}) \rightarrow \pm\kappa \text{ as } t \rightarrow T \quad (2.3)$$

in  $L^2(e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4}})$  and in  $C^k(|y| < R)$  for any  $R > 0$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $u_n(0) \rightarrow u(0)$  in  $W^{2,\infty}$ , for large  $n$ ,  $u_n$  blows up at time  $T_n$  with  $T_n \rightarrow T$ .

Some of the above results are stated in [4,9,11,12] in the case  $1 < p < p_c$ , but are however still valid in the energy critical case. In particular, the only bounded solution to the self similar elliptic equation

$$\Delta w + |w|^{p-1} w = \frac{1}{2} \Lambda w, \quad \Lambda := \frac{2}{p-1} + x \cdot \nabla, \quad (2.4)$$

for  $1 < p \leq p_c$  is  $\pm\kappa$  as follows from the Pohozaev type identity [7]:

$$(d-2)(p_c-p) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla w|^2 e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4}} dy + \frac{p-1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |y|^2 |\nabla w|^2 e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4}} dy = 0. \quad (2.5)$$

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

We argue by contradiction, following [4]. Assume the result is false. From Lemma 2.2 and from the Cauchy theory in  $W^{2,\infty}$ , the negation means the following. There exists  $u_0 \in W^{3,\infty}$  such that the solution to (1.1) starting from  $u_0$  blows up at time 1 (without loss of generality) with:

$$\|u(t)\|_{L^\infty} \sim \kappa (1-t)^{-\frac{1}{p-1}} \text{ as } t \rightarrow 1, \quad (3.1)$$

and satisfies:

$$|\Delta u| \leq \frac{1}{2}|u|^p + K \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, 1). \quad (3.2)$$

There exists a sequence  $u_n$  of solutions to (1.1) blowing up at time  $T_n$  with:

$$T_n \rightarrow 1 \text{ and } u_n \rightarrow u \text{ in } C_{\text{loc}}([0, 1), W^{3,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d)) \quad (3.3)$$

and there exists two sequences  $0 \leq t_n < T_n$  and  $x_n$  such that:

$$|\Delta u_n| \leq \frac{1}{2}|u_n|^p + 2K \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^d \times [0, t_n), \quad (3.4)$$

$$|\Delta u_n(t_n, x_n)| = \frac{1}{2}|u_n(t_n, x_n)|^p + 2K. \quad (3.5)$$

The strategy is the following. First we centralize the problem, showing that one can take without loss of generality  $x_n = 0$ . Then we prove that  $u$  and  $u_n$  become singular near 0 as  $(t, n) \rightarrow (1, +\infty)$ . In view of Lemma 2.2, the ODE type bound (3.4) means that  $u_n$  behaves approximately as a type-I blowing-up solution until  $t_n$ . This intuition is made rigorous by proving that an appropriate renormalization of  $u_n$  near  $(t_n, 0)$  converges to the constant in space blow-up profile (1.2). We then show that the inequality (3.5) passes to the limit, contradicting (3.2).

**Lemma 3.1.** Let  $u, u_n$  be solutions to (1.1),  $t_n$  and  $x_n$  satisfy (3.1), (3.2), (3.3), (3.4) and (3.5). Then

$$t_n \rightarrow 1 \quad (3.6)$$

and there exist  $\hat{u}$  and  $\hat{u}_n$  solutions to (1.1) satisfying (3.1), (3.2), (3.4) and (3.5) with  $\hat{x}_n = 0$ . In addition,  $\hat{u}$  blows up with type I at  $(1, 0)$ ,  $\hat{u}_n$  blows up at time  $T_n$  and  $\hat{u}(t_n, 0) \rightarrow +\infty$ .

<sup>1</sup> Without loss of generality for the sign.

**Proof of Lemma 3.1. Step 1** Proof of (3.6). At time  $t_n$ ,  $u$  satisfies the inequality (3.2), whereas  $u_n$  does not from (3.5). As  $u_n$  converges to  $u$  in  $C_{\text{loc}}^{1,2}([0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$  from (3.3), this forces  $t_n$  to tend to 1.

**Step 2** Centering and limit objects. Define  $\hat{u}_n(t, x) = u_n(t, x + x_n)$ . Then  $\hat{u}_n$  is a solution satisfying (3.4), (3.5) with  $\hat{x}_n = 0$ , and blowing up at time  $T_n \rightarrow 1$  from (3.3). From parabolic regularizing effects,  $(t, x) \mapsto u(t, x_n + x)$  is uniformly bounded in  $C_{\text{loc}}^{\frac{3}{2}, 3}([0, 1), \mathbb{R}^d)$ , hence as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$  using Arzela Ascoli theorem it converges to a function  $\hat{u}$  that also solves (1.1), satisfies (3.2) and

$$\|\hat{u}(t)\|_{L^\infty} \lesssim \kappa (1-t)^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}. \quad (3.7)$$

As  $u_n$  converges to  $u$  in  $C_{\text{loc}}([0, 1), W^{3,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d))$  from (3.3),  $\hat{u}_n$  converges to  $\hat{u}$  in  $C_{\text{loc}}^{1,2}([0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ , establishing (3.3).

**Step 3** Conditions for boundedness. We claim two facts. 1) If  $\hat{u}$  does not blow up at  $(1, 0)$ , then there exists  $r, C > 0$  such that for all  $(t, y) \in [0, t_n] \times B(0, r)$ ,  $|\hat{u}_n(t, y)| \leq C$ . 2) If there exists  $C > 0$  such that  $|\hat{u}_n(t_n, 0)| \leq C$ , then  $\hat{u}$  does not blow up at  $(0, 1)$ .

*Proof of the first fact.* We reason by contradiction. If  $\hat{u}$  does not blow up at  $(1, 0)$ , there exists  $r, C > 0$  such that for all  $(t, y) \in [0, 1) \times B(0, r)$ ,  $|\hat{u}(t, y)| \leq C$ . Assume that there exists  $(\tilde{x}_n, \tilde{t}_n)$  such that  $\tilde{x}_n \in B(0, r)$  and  $|\hat{u}_n(\tilde{x}_n, \tilde{t}_n)| \rightarrow +\infty$ . As  $\hat{u}_n$  solves (1.1), from (3.5) one then has that:

$$\forall t \in [0, \tilde{t}_n], \quad \partial_t |\hat{u}_n(t, \tilde{x}_n)| \leq \frac{3}{2} |\hat{u}_n(t, \tilde{x}_n)|^p + 2K, \quad |\hat{u}_n(\tilde{x}_n, \tilde{t}_n)| \rightarrow +\infty.$$

This then implies that for any  $M > 0$ , there exists  $s > 0$  such that for  $n$  large enough,  $|\hat{u}_n(\tilde{x}_n, t)| \geq M$  on  $[\max(0, \tilde{t}_n - s), \tilde{t}_n]$ . But this contradicts the convergence in  $C_{\text{loc}}([0, 1) \times B(0, r))$  established in Step 2 to the bounded function  $\hat{u}$ .

*Proof of the second fact.* We also prove it by contradiction. Assume that  $\hat{u}$  blows up at  $(0, 1)$  and  $|\hat{u}_n(t_n, 0)| \leq C$ . Then we claim that

$$\forall t \in [0, t_n], \quad |\hat{u}_n(t, 0)| \leq \max((4K)^{\frac{1}{p}}, C).$$

Indeed, as  $\hat{u}_n$  is a solution to (1.1) satisfying (3.4) one has that:

$$\forall t \in [0, t_n], \quad \partial_t |\hat{u}_n(t, 0)| \geq \frac{1}{2} |\hat{u}_n(t, 0)|^p - 2K.$$

So if the bound we claim is violated at some time  $0 \leq t_0 \leq \tau'_n$ , then  $|\hat{u}_n(t, 0)|$  is non-decreasing on  $[t_0, \tau'_n]$ , strictly greater than  $C$ , which at time  $t_n$  is a contradiction. But now as this bound is independent of  $n$ , valid on  $[0, t_n]$  with  $t_n \rightarrow 1$ , and as  $\hat{u}_n(t, 0) \rightarrow \hat{u}(t, 0)$  on  $[0, 1)$ , one obtains at the limit that  $\hat{u}(t, 0)$  is bounded on  $[0, 1)$ . From (2.3), this contradicts the blow up of  $\hat{u}$  at  $(1, 0)$ .

**Step 4** End of the proof. It remains to prove the singular behavior near 0: that  $\hat{u}$  blows up at  $(1, 0)$  and that  $|\hat{u}_n(t_n, 0)| \rightarrow +\infty$ . We reason by contradiction. From Step 3 we assume that there exists  $C, r > 0$  such that  $|\hat{u}| + |\hat{u}_n| \leq C$  on  $[0, 1) \times B(0, r)$ . A standard parabolic estimate then implies that

$$\|\hat{u}(t)\|_{W^{3,\infty}(B(0, r'))} + \|\hat{u}_n(t)\|_{W^{3,\infty}(B(0, r'))} \leq C' \quad (3.8)$$

for all  $t \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1)$  for some  $0 < r' \leq r$ . Let  $\chi$  be a cut-off function,  $\chi = 1$  on  $B(0, \frac{r'}{2})$ ,  $\chi = 0$  outside  $B(0, r')$ . The evolution of  $\tilde{u}_n = \chi \hat{u}_n$  is given by:

$$\tilde{u}_{n,\tau} - \Delta \tilde{u}_n = \chi |\hat{u}_n|^{p-1} \hat{u}_n + \Delta \chi \hat{u}_n - 2\nabla \cdot (\nabla \chi \hat{u}_n) = F_n$$

with  $\|F_n\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \leq C$  from (3.8). Fix  $0 < s \ll 1$ . One has:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \hat{u}_n(t_n, 0) &= K_s * (\Delta \tilde{u}_n(t_n - s))(0) + \sum_1^d \int_0^s [\partial_{x_i} K_{s-s'} * \partial_{x_i} F(t_n - s + s')] (0) \\ &= \Delta \hat{u}(t_n - s, 0) + o_{n \rightarrow +\infty}(1) + o_{s \rightarrow 0}(1) \end{aligned}$$

from (3.3), the estimate on  $F_n$  and (3.8). Similarly,

$$\hat{u}_n(t_n, 0) = \hat{u}(t_n, 0) + o_{n \rightarrow +\infty}(1) + o_{s \rightarrow 0}(1).$$

The equality (3.5) and the two above identities imply the following asymptotics:  $\liminf |\Delta \hat{u}(t_n)| - \frac{|\hat{u}(t_n, 0)|^p}{2} \geq 2K$ , which is in contradiction with (3.2). Hence  $\hat{u}$  blows up at  $(1, 0)$  with type-I blow-up from (3.7) and  $|\hat{u}(t_n, 0)| \rightarrow +\infty$ .  $\square$

We return to the study of  $u$  and  $u_n$  introduced at the beginning of this Section to prove Theorem 1.1 by contradiction. From Lemma 3.1, keeping the notation  $u$  and  $u_n$  for  $\hat{u}$  and  $\hat{u}_n$  introduced there, one can assume without loss of generality that in addition to (3.1), (3.2), (3.3) and (3.4),  $u$  and  $u_n$  satisfy (3.6), and:

$$|\Delta u_n(t_n, 0)| = \frac{1}{2} |u_n(t_n, 0)|^p + 2K, \quad (3.9)$$

$$u_n(t_n, 0) \rightarrow +\infty, \quad (3.10)$$

$$|u(t, 0)| \sim \frac{\kappa}{(1-t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}. \quad (3.11)$$

To renormalize appropriately  $u_n$  near  $(1, 0)$  we do the following. Define

$$M_n(t) := \left( \frac{\kappa}{\|u_n(t)\|_{L^\infty}} \right)^{p-1}. \quad (3.12)$$

For  $(\tilde{t}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  a sequence of times,  $0 \leq \tilde{t}_n < T_n$ , the renormalization near  $(\tilde{t}_n, 0)$  is

$$v_n(\tau, y) := M_n^{\frac{1}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n) u_n \left( \tilde{t}_n + \tau M_n(\tilde{t}_n), M_n^{\frac{1}{2}}(\tilde{t}_n) y \right) \quad (3.13)$$

for  $(\tau, y) \in \left[ -\frac{\tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)}, \frac{T_n - \tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)} \right) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ . One has the following asymptotics.

**Lemma 3.2.** Assume  $0 \leq \tilde{t}_n \leq t_n$  and  $\tilde{t}_n \rightarrow 1$ . Then

$$\|u_n(\tilde{t}_n)\|_{L^\infty} \sim \frac{\kappa}{(T_n - \tilde{t}_n)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}, \quad \text{i.e. } M_n(\tilde{t}_n) \sim (T_n - \tilde{t}_n). \quad (3.14)$$

Moreover, up to a subsequence<sup>2</sup>:

$$v_n \rightarrow \frac{\kappa}{\left[ \left( \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|u_n(\tilde{t}_n)\|_{L^\infty}}{u_n(\tilde{t}_n, 0)} \right)^{p-1} - t \right]^{\frac{1}{p-1}}} \text{ in } C_{loc}^{1,2}((-\infty, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^d). \quad (3.15)$$

**Proof of Lemma 3.2. Step 1** Upper bound for  $M_n(\tilde{t}_n)$ . We claim that one always has  $\|u_n(\tilde{t}_n)\|_{L^\infty} \geq \frac{\kappa}{(T_n - \tilde{t}_n)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}$ , i.e.

$$M_n(\tilde{t}_n) \leq (T_n - \tilde{t}_n). \quad (3.16)$$

Indeed, if it is false, then there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\|u_n(\tilde{t}_n)\|_{L^\infty} < \frac{\kappa}{(T_n + \delta - \tilde{t}_n)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}$ . Therefore, from a parabolic comparison argument, this inequality propagates for the solutions, yielding that  $-\frac{\kappa}{(T_n + \delta - t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}} \leq u_n \leq \frac{\kappa}{(T_n + \delta - t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}$  for all times  $t \geq \tilde{t}_n$ .

This implies that  $u_n$  stays bounded up to  $T_n$ , which is a contradiction.

**Step 2** Proof of (3.15). Let  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^{\mathbb{N}}$  and define:

$$\tilde{v}_n(\tau, y) := M_n^{\frac{1}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n) u_n \left( \tilde{t}_n + \tau M_n(\tilde{t}_n), x_n + M_n^{\frac{1}{2}}(\tilde{t}_n) y \right). \quad (3.17)$$

From (3.13),  $\tilde{v}_n$  is defined on  $\left[ -\frac{\tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)}, \frac{T_n - \tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)} \right) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ . The lower bound,  $-\frac{\tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)}$ , then goes to  $-\infty$  from (3.16).  $\tilde{v}_n$  is a solution to (1.1) satisfying:

$$\|\tilde{v}_n(0)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \kappa, \quad (3.18)$$

$$\forall (\tau, y) \in \left[ -\frac{\tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)}, 0 \right] \times \mathbb{R}^d, \quad |\Delta \tilde{v}_n| \leq \frac{1}{2} |\tilde{v}_n|^p + 2K M_n^{\frac{p}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n), \quad (3.19)$$

from (3.4) and (3.13).

**Precompactness of the renormalized functions.** We claim that  $\tilde{v}_n$  is uniformly bounded in  $C_{loc}^{\frac{3}{2}, 3}([-\infty, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ . We now prove this result. First, we claim that

$$|\tilde{v}_n| \leq \max \left\{ (4K)^{\frac{1}{p}} M_n^{\frac{1}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n), \kappa \right\}. \quad (3.20)$$

Indeed, as  $\tilde{v}_n$  is a solution to (1.1) satisfying (3.19), one has that:

$$\partial_t |\tilde{v}_n| \geq \frac{1}{2} |\tilde{v}_n|^p - 2K M_n^{\frac{p}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n).$$

<sup>2</sup> With the convention that if the limit in the denominator is  $+\infty$  the limit function is 0.

So if the bound we claim is violated, then  $\|\tilde{v}_n\|_{L^\infty}$  is strictly increasing, greater than  $\kappa$ , which at time 0 is a contradiction to (3.18). Moreover, as  $\|\tilde{v}_n(0)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \kappa$ , from a comparison argument, for  $0 \leq t < 1$ , one has that  $\|\tilde{v}_n(0)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \kappa(1-t)^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}$ . This and the above bound implies that for any  $T < 1$ ,  $\tilde{v}_n$  is uniformly bounded, independently of  $n$ , in  $L^\infty((-\frac{\tilde{t}_n}{M_n}, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ . From standard parabolic regularization, it is uniformly bounded in  $C^{\frac{3}{2},3}((-\frac{\tilde{t}_n}{M_n} + 1, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ , yielding the desired result.

**Rigidity at the limit.** From Step 2 and Arzela Ascoli theorem, up to a subsequence,  $v_n$  converges in  $C_{\text{loc}}^{1,2}((-\infty, 0] \times \mathbb{R}^d)$  to a function  $v$ . The equation (1.1) passes to the limit and  $v$  also solves (1.1), (3.20) and (3.16) imply that  $|v| \leq \kappa$ . (1.1), (3.16) and (3.19) imply that:

$$\partial_t |v| \geq \frac{1}{2} |v|^p.$$

Reintegrating this differential inequality, one obtains that  $|v| \leq \frac{C}{|c-\tau|^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}$  for some  $C, c > 0$ . Applying the Liouville Lemma 2.1,

one has that  $v$  is constant in space. Up to a subsequence,  $v(0, x_n) = \kappa \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n(\tilde{t}_n, x_n)}{\|u_n(\tilde{t}_n)\|_{L^\infty}}$ . The particular choice  $x_n = 0$ ,  $\tilde{v}_n = v_n$  gives in particular the desired identity (3.15).

**Step 3 Lower bound on  $M_n$ .** We claim that  $\liminf \frac{M_n}{T_n - \tilde{t}_n} \geq 1$ . We prove it by contradiction using a blow-up criterion from Section 4. From (3.12), and up to a subsequence, assume that there exists  $0 < \delta \ll 1$  and  $x_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $u_n(\tilde{t}_n, x_n) > \frac{(1+\delta)\kappa}{(T_n - \tilde{t}_n)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}$  and  $\frac{u_n(\tilde{t}_n, x_n)}{\|u_n(\tilde{t}_n)\|_{L^\infty}} \rightarrow 1$ . Therefore the renormalized function  $\tilde{v}_n$  defined by (3.17) blows up at  $\frac{T_n - \tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)} \geq (1+\delta)^{p-1}$ . From Step 2,  $v(0, \cdot)$  is uniformly bounded and converges to  $\kappa$ . Hence, defining the self-similar renormalization near  $((1+\delta)^{p-1}, 0)$

$$w_{0, (1+\delta)^{p-1}}^{(n)}(t, y) = ((1+\delta)^{p-1} - t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} \tilde{v}_n\left(t, \sqrt{(1+\delta)^{p-1} - t} y\right),$$

one has that  $I(w_{0, (1+\delta)^{p-1}}(0, \cdot)) \rightarrow I((1+\delta)^{p-1} \kappa) > 0$  where  $I$  is defined by (4.6). From (4.7), for  $n$  large enough, this implies that  $\tilde{v}_n$  should have blown up before  $(1+\delta)^{p-1}$ , which yields the desired contradiction.  $\square$

To end the proof of Theorem 1.1, we now distinguish two cases for which one has to find a contradiction (which cover all possible cases up to subsequence):

$$\text{Case 1: } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n(x_n, t_n)}{\|u_n(t_n)\|_{L^\infty}} > 0, \quad (3.21)$$

$$\text{Case 2: } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n(x_n, t_n)}{\|u_n(t_n)\|_{L^\infty}} = 0. \quad (3.22)$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.1 in Case 1.** In this case, we can renormalize at time  $t_n$ . Let  $\tilde{t}_n = t_n$  and define  $v_n$  and  $M_n(\tilde{t}_n)$  by (3.13) and (3.12). (3.15) and (3.21) imply that  $\Delta v_n(0, 0) \rightarrow 0$  and  $v_n(0, 0) \rightarrow v(0, 0) > 0$ . From (3.9),  $v_n$  satisfies at the origin:

$$|\Delta v_n(0, 0)| = \frac{1}{2} |v_n(0, 0)|^p + 2KM_n^{\frac{p}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n).$$

As  $M_n(t_n) \rightarrow 0$  from (3.14), at the limit we get  $0 = \frac{1}{2} v(0, 0) > 0$ , which is a contradiction, ending the proof of Theorem 1.1 in Case 1.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.1 in Case 2. Step 1** Suitable renormalization before  $t_n$ . We claim that for any  $0 < \kappa_0 \ll 1$  one can find a sequence of times  $\tilde{t}_n$  such that  $0 \leq \tilde{t}_n \leq t_n$ ,  $\tilde{t}_n \rightarrow 1$  and such that  $v_n$  defined by (3.13) satisfies up to a subsequence:

$$v_n \rightarrow \frac{\kappa}{\left[\left(\frac{\kappa}{\kappa_0}\right)^{p-1} - 1 - t\right]^{\frac{1}{p-1}}} \text{ in } C_{\text{loc}}^{1,2}([-\infty, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^d). \quad (3.23)$$

We now prove this fact. On the one hand,  $\frac{|u(t, 0)|}{\|u(t)\|_{L^\infty}} \rightarrow 1$  as  $t \rightarrow 1$  (from (3.11) and (2.2) as  $u$  blow up with type I at 0) and for any  $0 \leq T < 1$   $u_n$  converges to  $u$  in  $C([0, T], L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d))$  from (3.3). As  $t_n \rightarrow 1$ , using a diagonal argument and Lemma 3.2, up to a subsequence there exists a sequence of times  $0 \leq t'_n \leq t_n$  such that  $\frac{u_n(t'_n, 0)}{\|u_n(t'_n)\|_{L^\infty}} \rightarrow 1$ . On the other hand, from the assumption (3.22) and (3.6),  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|u_n(\tilde{t}_n, 0)|}{\|u_n(\tilde{t}_n)\|_{L^\infty}} = 0$  and  $\tilde{t}_n \rightarrow 1$ . From a continuity argument, for  $\kappa_0$  small enough, there exists a

sequence  $t'_n \leq \tilde{t}_n \leq t_n$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n(\tilde{t}_n, 0)}{\|u_n(\tilde{t}_n)\|_{L^\infty}} = \left[\left(\frac{\kappa}{\kappa_0}\right)^{p-1} - 1\right]^{-\frac{1}{p-1}}$ . From Lemma 3.2, one obtains the desired convergence result (3.23).

**Step 2** Local boundedness. Take  $\tilde{t}_n$  and  $v_n$  as in Step 1. From (3.13) and (3.14)  $v_n$  blows up at time  $\tau_n = \frac{T_n - \tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)} \rightarrow 1$ . Up to time  $\tau'_n = \frac{t_n - \tilde{t}_n}{M_n(\tilde{t}_n)}$ ,  $0 \leq \tau'_n$ ,  $v_n$  satisfies:

$$|\Delta v_n| \leq \frac{1}{2} |v_n|^p + 2KM_n^{\frac{p}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n) \quad (3.24)$$

and we recall that  $M_n(\tilde{t}_n) \rightarrow 0$  from (3.14). Let  $R > 0$  and  $a \in B(0, R)$ . Define

$$w_{a, \tau_n}^{(n)}(y, t) := (\tau_n - t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} v_n(t, a + \sqrt{\tau_n - t} y).$$

Then as  $v_n(-1) \rightarrow \kappa_0$  from (3.23), one has that for  $n$  large enough

$$E[w_{a, \tau_n}^{(n)}(-1, \cdot)] = O(\kappa_0^2)$$

where the energy is defined by (4.4). One can then apply the result (4.15) of Proposition 4.2: there exists  $r > 0$  such that for  $\kappa_0$  small enough and  $n$  large enough one has:

$$\forall t \in [0, \tau'_n], \quad \|v_n(t)\|_{W^{2,\infty}(B(0,r))} \leq C. \quad (3.25)$$

**Step 3** End of the proof. Let  $\chi$  be a cut-off function,  $\chi = 1$  on  $B(0, \frac{r}{2})$  and  $\chi = 0$  outside  $B(0, r)$ . The evolution of  $\tilde{v}_n = \chi v_n$  is given by

$$\tilde{v}_{n,\tau} - \Delta \tilde{v}_n = \chi |v_n|^{p-1} v_n + \Delta \chi v_n - 2\nabla \cdot (\nabla \chi v_n) = F_n$$

with  $\|F_n\|_{W^{1,\infty}} \leq C$  from (3.25). Fix  $0 < s \ll 1$ . One has:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta v_n(\tau'_n, 0) &= K_s * (\Delta \tilde{v}_n(\tau'_n - s))(0) + \sum_{i=1}^d \int_0^s [\partial_{x_i} K_{s-s'} * \partial_{x_i} F(\tau'_n - s + s')](0) \\ &= o_{n \rightarrow +\infty}(1) + o_{s \rightarrow 0}(1) \end{aligned}$$

from (3.23) and the estimate on  $F_n$ . Hence  $\Delta v_n(\tau'_n, 0) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ . On the other hand,  $\lim v_n(\tau'_n, 0) = v(\tau'_n, 0) > 0$  from (3.23) and the fact that  $0 \leq \tau'_n \leq 1$ . We recall that at time  $\tau'_n$   $v_n$  satisfies:

$$|\Delta v_n(\tau'_n, 0)| = \frac{1}{2} |v_n(\tau'_n, 0)|^p + 2KM_n^{\frac{p}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n).$$

As  $M_n^{\frac{p}{p-1}}(\tilde{t}_n) \rightarrow 0$  from (3.14) at the limit, one has  $0 = \frac{1}{2} |v(\tau'_n, 0)|^p > 0$  which is a contradiction. This ends the proof of Theorem 1.1 in Case 2.  $\square$

#### 4. A local smallness result

This section is devoted to the proof of (3.25).

##### 4.1. Self-similar variables

We follow the method introduced in [7–9] to study type-I blow-up locally. The results and the ideas of their proof are either contained in [8] or similar to the results there. A sharp blow-up criterion and other preliminary bounds are given by Lemma 4.1 and a condition for local boundedness is given in Proposition 4.2. For  $u$  defined on  $[0, T_{u_0}) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $T > 0$ , we define the self-similar renormalization of  $u$  at  $(T, a)$ :

$$w_{a,T}(y, t) := (T - t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}} u(t, a + \sqrt{T - t} y) \quad (4.1)$$

for  $(t, y) \in [0, \min(T_{u_0}, T)) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ . Introducing the self-similar renormalized time:

$$s := -\log(T - t) \quad (4.2)$$

one sees that if  $u$  solves (1.1) then  $w_{a,T}$  solves:

$$\partial_s w_{a,T} - \Delta w_{a,T} - |w_{a,T}|^{p-1} w_{a,T} + \frac{1}{2} \Lambda w_{a,T} = 0. \quad (4.3)$$

Equation (4.3) admits a natural Lyapunov functional,

$$E(w) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left( \frac{1}{2} |\nabla w(y)|^2 + \frac{1}{2(p-1)} |w(y)|^2 - \frac{1}{p+1} |w(y)|^{p+1} \right) \rho(y) dy, \quad (4.4)$$

where  $\rho(y) := \frac{1}{(4\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4}}$  from the fact that for its solutions there holds:

$$\frac{d}{ds} E(w) = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w_s^2 \rho \, dy \leq 0. \quad (4.5)$$

Another quantity that will prove to be helpful is the following:

$$I(w) := -2E(w) + \frac{p-1}{p+1} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}. \quad (4.6)$$

**Lemma 4.1** ([7,11]). *Let  $w$  be a global solution to (4.3) with  $E(w(0)) = E_0$ , then<sup>3</sup> for  $s \geq 0$ :*

$$I(w(s)) \leq 0, \quad E_0 \geq 0 \quad (4.7)$$

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w_s^2 \rho \, dy \, ds \leq E_0. \quad (4.8)$$

If moreover  $E_0 := E(w(0)) \leq 1$ , then<sup>4</sup> for any  $s \geq 0$ :

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \leq C E_0^{\frac{2}{p+1}}, \quad (4.9)$$

$$\int_s^{s+1} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (|\nabla w|^2 + w^2 + |w|^{p+1}) \rho \, dy \right)^2 ds \leq C E_0^{\frac{p+3}{p+1}}. \quad (4.10)$$

**Proof of Lemma 4.1. Step 1** Proof of (4.7). We argue by contradiction and assume that  $I(w(s_0)) > 0$  for some  $s_0 \geq 0$ . The set  $S := \{s \geq s_0, I(s) \geq I(s_0)\}$  is closed by continuity. For any solution to (4.3), one has:

$$\frac{d}{ds} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \right) = 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w w_s \rho \, dy = -4E(w) + \frac{2(p-1)}{p+1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |w|^{p+1} \rho \, dy. \quad (4.11)$$

Therefore, for any  $s \in S$ , from (4.6) and Jensen inequality this gives:

$$\frac{d}{ds} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \right) \geq -4E(w(s)) + \frac{2(p-1)}{p+1} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} = I(w(s)) > 0 \quad (4.12)$$

as  $I(w(s)) \geq I(w(s_0))$ , which with (4.5) and (4.6) imply  $\frac{d}{ds} I(w(s)) > 0$ . Hence  $S$  is open and therefore  $S = [s_0, +\infty)$ . From (4.12) and (4.5), there exists  $s_1$  such that  $E(w(s)) \leq \frac{p-1}{2(p+1)} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}$  for all  $s \geq s_1$ , implying from (4.12):

$$\frac{d}{ds} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \right) \geq 2 \frac{p-1}{p+1} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}.$$

This quantity must then tend to  $+\infty$  in finite time, which is a contradiction.

<sup>3</sup> From the definition (4.6) of  $I$  and (4.7) one has that for all  $s \geq 0$ ,  $E(w(s)) \geq 0$ . Hence the right hand side in (4.8) is nonnegative.

<sup>4</sup> Idem for the right hand side of (4.9) and (4.10).



**Step 2** End of the proof. (4.8) and (4.9) are consequences of (4.5), (4.6) and (4.7). To prove (4.10), from (4.11), (4.5), (4.9) and Hölder, one obtains:

$$\int_s^{s+1} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |w|^{p+1} \rho \, dy \right)^2 ds \leq \int_s^{s+1} \left( C E_0^2 + C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w_s^2 \rho \, dy \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w^2 \rho \, dy \right) ds \leq C E_0^{\frac{p+3}{p+1}}$$

as  $E_0 \leq 1$ . This identity, using (4.4), (4.5) and as  $E_0 \leq 1$  implies (4.10).  $\square$

**Proposition 4.2** (Condition for local boundedness). Let  $R > 0$ ,  $0 < T_- < T_+$  and  $\delta > 0$ . There exists  $\eta > 0$  and  $0 < r \leq R$  such that, for any  $T \in [T_-, T_+]$  and  $u$  solution to (1.1) on  $[0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d$  with  $u_0 \in W^{2,\infty}$  satisfying:

$$\forall a \in B(0, R), \quad E(w_{a,T}(0, \cdot)) \leq \eta, \quad (4.13)$$

$$\forall (t, x) \in [0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d, \quad |\Delta u(t, x)| \leq \frac{1}{2} |u(t, x)|^p + \eta, \quad (4.14)$$

there holds

$$\forall t \in \left[ \frac{T_-}{2}, T \right), \quad \|u(t)\|_{W^{2,\infty}(B(0,r))} \leq \delta. \quad (4.15)$$

The proof of Proposition 4.2 is done at the end of this subsection. We need intermediate results: Proposition 4.3 gives local smallness in self-similar variables, Lemma 4.7 and its Corollary 4.8 give local boundedness in  $L^\infty$  in original variables.

**Proposition 4.3.** For any  $R, s_0, \delta > 0$ , there exists  $\eta > 0$  such that for any  $w$  global solution to (4.3), with  $w(0) \in W^{2,\infty}$  satisfying

$$E(w(0)) \leq \eta \text{ and } \forall (s, y) \in [0, +\infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d, \quad |\Delta w(s, y)| \leq \frac{1}{2} |w(s, y)|^p + \eta, \quad (4.16)$$

there holds:

$$\forall (s, y) \in [s_0, +\infty) \times B(0, R), \quad |w(s, y)| \leq \delta. \quad (4.17)$$

**Proof of Proposition 4.3.** It is a direct consequence of Lemma 4.4 and Lemma 4.5.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.4.** For any  $R, s_0, \eta' > 0$ , there exists  $\eta > 0$  such that for  $w$  a global solution to (4.3), with  $w(0) \in W^{2,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , satisfying (4.16), there holds

$$\forall s \in [s_0, +\infty), \quad \int_{B(0,R)} (|w|^2 + |\nabla w|^2) dy \leq \eta'. \quad (4.18)$$

**Lemma 4.5.** For any  $R, \delta > 0$ ,  $0 < s_0 < s_1$  there exists  $\eta, \eta' > 0$  and  $0 < r \leq R$  such that for  $w$  a global solution to (4.3) with  $w(0) \in W^{2,\infty}$ , satisfying (4.16) and (4.18), there holds:

$$\forall (s, y) \in [s_1, +\infty) \times B(0, r), \quad |w(s, y)| \leq \delta. \quad (4.19)$$

We now prove the two above lemmas. In what follows we will often have to localize the function  $w$ . Let  $\chi$  be a smooth cut-off function,  $\chi = 1$  on  $B(0, 1)$  and  $\chi = 0$  outside  $B(0, 2)$ . For  $R > 0$  we define  $\chi_R(x) = \chi\left(\frac{x}{R}\right)$  and:

$$v := \chi_R w \quad (4.20)$$

(we will forget the dependence in  $R$  in the notations to ease writing, and will write  $\chi$  instead of  $\chi_R$ ). From (4.3) the evolution of  $v$  is then given by:

$$v_s - \Delta v = \chi |w|^{p-1} w + \left( \left[ \frac{1}{p-1} - \frac{d}{2} \right] \chi - \frac{1}{2} \nabla \chi \cdot y + \Delta \chi \right) w + \nabla \cdot \left( \left[ \frac{1}{2} \chi y - 2 \nabla \chi \right] w \right). \quad (4.21)$$

**Proof of Lemma 4.4.** We will prove that (4.18) holds at time  $s_0$ , which will imply (4.18) at any time  $s \in [s_0, +\infty)$  because of time invariance. We take  $d \geq 5$  for the sake of simplicity.

**Step 1** An estimate for  $\Delta w$ . First one notices that the results of [Lemma 4.1](#) apply. From (4.16) and (4.3), there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that:

$$|w|^{2p} \leq C(|w|^{p-1}w + \Delta w)^2 + C\eta^2 \leq C|w_s|^2 + C|y|^2|\nabla w|^2 + Cw^2 + C\eta^2.$$

We integrate this in time, using (4.8), (4.9), (4.10) and (4.16), yielding for  $s \geq 0$ :

$$\int_s^{s+1} \int_{B(0,2R)} |w|^{2p} dy ds \leq C\eta + C\eta^{\frac{p+3}{p+1}} + C\eta^{\frac{2}{p+1}} + C\eta^2 \leq C\eta^{\frac{2}{p+1}}. \quad (4.22)$$

Injecting the above estimate in (4.16), using (4.9) and (4.10), we obtain for  $s \geq 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_s^{s+1} \|w\|_{H^2(B(0,2R))}^2 ds &\leq \int_s^{s+1} \int_{B(0,2R)} (|\Delta w|^2 + |\nabla w|^2 + w^2) dy ds \\ &\leq \int_s^{s+1} \int_{B(0,2R)} C(|w|^{2p} + |\nabla w|^2 + w^2) dy ds + C\eta^2 \leq C\eta^{\frac{2}{p+1}}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.23)$$

**Step 2** Localization. We localize at scale  $R$  and define  $v$  by (4.20). From (4.20), (4.10) and (4.9), one obtains that there exists  $\tilde{s}_0 \in [\max(0, s_0 - 1), s_0]$  such that:

$$\|v(\tilde{s}_0)\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \lesssim \int_{B(0,2R)} (w(\tilde{s}_0)^2 + |\nabla w(\tilde{s}_0)|^2) dy \leq C\eta^{\frac{2}{p+1}} + C\eta^{\frac{p+3}{p+1}} \leq C\eta^{\frac{2}{p+1}}. \quad (4.24)$$

We apply Duhamel's formula to (4.21) to find that  $v(s_0)$  is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} v(s_0) &= \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} K_{s_0-s} * \left\{ \chi |w|^{p-1}w + \left( \left[ \frac{1}{p-1} - \frac{d}{2} \right] \chi - \frac{1}{2} \nabla \chi \cdot y + \Delta \chi \right) w \right\} ds \\ &\quad + \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \nabla \cdot K_{s_0-s} * \left( \left[ \frac{1}{2} \chi y - 2 \nabla \chi \right] w \right) ds + K_{s_0-\tilde{s}_0} * v(\tilde{s}_0). \end{aligned} \quad (4.25)$$

We now estimate the  $\dot{H}^1$  norm of each term in the previous identity, using (4.24), (4.10), (A.2), Young and Hölder inequalities:

$$\|K_{s_0-\tilde{s}_0} * v(\tilde{s}_0)\|_{\dot{H}^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \|v(\tilde{s}_0)\|_{\dot{H}^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C\eta^{\frac{1}{p+1}}, \quad (4.26)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} K_{s_0-s} * \left\{ \left( \left[ \frac{1}{p-1} - \frac{d}{2} \right] \chi - \frac{\nabla \chi \cdot y}{2} + \Delta \chi \right) w \right\} + \nabla \cdot K_{s_0-s} * \left( \left[ \frac{\chi y}{2} - 2 \nabla \chi \right] w \right) \right\|_{\dot{H}^1} \\ &\leq C \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \|w\|_{H^1(B(0,2R))} ds + C \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \frac{1}{|s_0-s|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \|w\|_{H^1(B(0,2R))} ds \\ &\leq C\eta^{\frac{p+3}{4(p+1)}} + C \left( \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \frac{ds}{|s_1-s|^{\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{4}{3}}} \right)^{\frac{3}{4}} \left( \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \|w\|_{H^1(B(0,2R))}^4 ds \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \leq C\eta^{\frac{p+3}{4(p+1)}}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.27)$$

For the non-linear term in (4.25), one first compute from (4.20) that:

$$\nabla(\chi |w|^{p-1}w) = p\chi |w|^{p-1}\nabla w + \nabla\chi |w|^{p-1}w. \quad (4.28)$$

For the first term in the previous identity, using Sobolev embedding, one obtains:

$$\begin{aligned} \| |w|^{p-1}\nabla w \|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-2+(d-4)(p-1)}}(B(0,2R))} &\leq C \|w\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-4}}(B(0,2R))}^{p-1} \|\nabla w\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-2}}(B(0,2R))} \\ &\leq C \|w\|_{H^2(B(0,2R))}^p. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, from (4.23) this force term satisfies:

$$\int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \| |w|^{p-1}\nabla w \|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-2+(d-4)(p-1)}}(B(0,2R))}^{\frac{2}{p}} ds \leq \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \|w\|_{H^2(B(0,2R))}^2 ds \leq C\eta^{\frac{2}{p+1}}.$$

We let  $(q, r)$  be the Lebesgue conjugated exponents of  $\frac{2}{p}$  and  $\frac{2d}{(d-2)+(d-4)(p-1)}$ :

$$q = \frac{2}{2-p} > 2, \quad r = \frac{2d}{d+2-(d-4)(p-1)} > 2.$$

They satisfy the Strichartz relation  $\frac{2}{q} + \frac{d}{r} = \frac{d}{2}$ . Therefore, using (A.3), one obtains:

$$\left\| \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} K_{s_0-s} * (p\chi |w(s)|^{p-1}\nabla w(s)) ds \right\|_{L^2} \leq C \left( \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \| |w|^{p-1}\nabla w \|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-2+(d-4)(p-1)}}(B(0,2R))}^{\frac{2}{p}} ds \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \leq C\eta^{\frac{p}{(p+1)}}.$$

For the second term in (4.28) using (4.22), (A.2) and Hölder, one has:

$$\left\| \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} K_{s_0-s} * (\nabla \chi |w|^{p-1} w) \, ds \right\|_{L^2} \leq C \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} \|w\|_{L^{2p}(B(0,2R))}^p \, ds \leq C \eta^{\frac{1}{p+1}}.$$

The two above estimates and the identity (4.28) imply the following bound:

$$\left\| \int_{\tilde{s}_0}^{s_0} K_{s_0-s} * (\chi |w|^{p-1} w) \, ds \right\|_{\dot{H}^1} \leq C \eta^{\frac{1}{p+1}}.$$

We come back to (4.25) where we found estimates for each term in the right-hand side in (4.26), (4.27) and the above identity, yielding  $\|v(s_0)\|_{\dot{H}^1} \leq C \eta^{\frac{1}{p+1}}$ . From (4.20), as  $v$  is compactly supported in  $B(0, 2R)$ , the above estimate implies the desired estimate (4.18) at time  $s_0$ .  $\square$

To prove Lemma 4.5, we need the following parabolic regularization result. Its proof uses standard parabolic tools and we do not give it here.

**Lemma 4.6** (Parabolic regularization). *Let  $R, M > 0, 0 < s_0 \leq 1$  and  $w$  be a global solution to (4.3) satisfying:*

$$\forall (s, y) \in [0, +\infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \|w(s, y)\|_{H^2(B(0,R))} \leq M. \quad (4.29)$$

*Then there exists  $0 < r \leq R$ , a constant  $C = C(R, s_0)$  and  $\alpha > 1$  such that:*

$$\forall (s, y) \in [s_0, +\infty) \times B(0, r), \quad |w(s, y)| \leq C(M + M^\alpha). \quad (4.30)$$

**Proof of Lemma 4.5.** Without loss of generality we take  $\eta' = \eta$ ,  $s_0 = 0$ , localize at scale  $\frac{R}{2}$  by defining  $v$  by (4.20). The assumption (4.18) implies that for  $s \geq 0$ :

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (|v(s)|^2 + |\nabla v(s)|^2) \, dy \leq C \eta. \quad (4.31)$$

We claim that for all  $s \geq \frac{s_1}{2}$ ,

$$\|v\|_{H^2} \leq C \eta.$$

This will give the desired result (4.19) by applying Lemma 4.6 from (4.20). We now prove the above bound. By time invariance, we just have to prove it at time  $\frac{s_1}{2}$ .

**Step 1** First estimate on  $v_s$ . Since  $w$  is a global solution starting in  $W^{2,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with  $E(w(0)) \leq \eta$ , from (4.8), one obtains:

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v_s|^2 \, dy \, ds \leq C \eta. \quad (4.32)$$

**Step 2** Second estimate on  $v_s$ . Let  $u = v_s$ . From (4.3) and (4.20), the evolution of  $u$  is given by:

$$u_s - \Delta u = p|w|^{p-1}u + \left( \left[ \frac{1}{p-1} - \frac{d}{2} \right] \chi - \frac{1}{2} \nabla \chi \cdot y + \Delta \chi \right) w_s + \nabla \cdot \left( \left[ \frac{1}{2} \chi y - 2 \nabla \chi \right] w_s \right). \quad (4.33)$$

We first state a non-linear estimate. Using Sobolev embedding, Hölder inequality and (4.18), one obtains:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u|^2 |w|^{p-1} \, dy \leq \|u\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-2}}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \|w\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-2}}(B(0,R))}^{p-1} \leq C \eta^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u|^2 \, dy.$$

We now perform an energy estimate. We multiply (4.33) by  $u$  and integrate in space using Young inequality for any  $\kappa > 0$  and the above inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{ds} \left[ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u|^2 dy \right] &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u|^2 dy + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left( \left[ \frac{1}{p-1} - \frac{d}{2} \right] \chi - \frac{1}{2} \nabla \chi \cdot y + \Delta \chi \right) w_s u dy \\
&\quad + \int \left( \left[ \frac{1}{2} \chi y - 2 \nabla \chi \right] w_s \right) \cdot \nabla u dy + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^2 |w|^{2(p-1)} dy \\
&\leq - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u|^2 dy + C \int_{B(0,R)} (w_s^2 + u^2) dy + \frac{C}{\kappa} \int_{B(0,R)} w_s^2 dy \\
&\quad + C\kappa \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u|^2 dy + C\eta^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u|^2 dy \\
&\leq - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u|^2 dy + C(\kappa) \int_{B(0,R)} w_s^2 dy
\end{aligned}$$

if  $\kappa$  and  $\eta$  have been chosen small enough. Now because of the integrability (4.32), there exists at least one  $\tilde{s} \in [\max(0, \frac{s_1}{2} - 1), \frac{s_1}{2}]$  such that:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v_s(\tilde{s})|^2 dy \leq C(s_1)\eta.$$

One then obtains from the two previous inequalities and (4.8):

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v_s(s)|^2 dy \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v_s(\tilde{s})|^2 dy + C \int_{\tilde{s}}^{\frac{s_1}{2}} \int_{B(0,R)} w_s^2 dy ds \leq C\eta. \quad (4.34)$$

**Step 3** Estimate on  $\Delta v$ . Applying Sobolev embedding and Hölder inequality, using the fact that  $\left(\frac{2d}{d-4}\right)' = \frac{d}{4} = \frac{\frac{d-2}{2}}{2(p-1)}$ , one gets that for any  $s \geq 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} v^2 |w|^{2(p-1)} dy &\leq \|v\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-4}}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \| |w|^{2(p-1)} \|_{L^{\frac{2d}{2(p-1)}}(B(0,R))}^2 \\
&= \|v\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-4}}(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \|w\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-2}}(B(0,R))}^{2(p-1)} \leq C \|v\|_{H^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \|w\|_{H^1(B(0,R))}^{2(p-1)} \\
&\leq C\eta^{p-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\Delta v|^2 dy,
\end{aligned} \quad (4.35)$$

where we injected the estimate (4.18). We inject the above estimate in (4.21), using (4.20), yielding for all  $s \geq 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\Delta v|^2 dy &\leq C \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (|v_s|^2 + |w|^2 + |\nabla w|^2 + v^2 |w|^{2(p-1)}) dy \right) \\
&\leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v_s|^2 dy + C\eta + C\eta^{p-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\Delta v|^2 dy,
\end{aligned}$$

where we used (4.29). Injecting (4.34), for  $\eta$  small enough:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left| \Delta v \left( \frac{s_1}{2} \right) \right|^2 dy \leq C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left| v_s \left( \frac{s_1}{2} \right) \right|^2 dy + C\eta \leq C\eta. \quad (4.36)$$

**Step 4** Conclusion. From (4.31) and (4.36) we infer  $\|v(\frac{s_1}{2})\|_{H^2} \leq C\eta$ , which is exactly the bound we had to prove.  $\square$

We now go from boundedness in  $L^\infty$  in self-similar variables provided by Proposition 4.3 to boundedness in  $L^\infty$  in original variables.

**Lemma 4.7** ([9]). Let  $0 \leq a \leq \frac{1}{p-1}$  and  $R, \epsilon_0 > 0$ . Let  $0 < \epsilon \leq \epsilon_0$  and  $u$  be a solution to (1.1) on  $[-1, 0) \times \mathbb{R}^d$  satisfying

$$\forall (t, x) \in [-1, 0) \times B(0, R), \quad |u(t, x)| \leq \frac{\epsilon}{|t|^{\frac{1}{p-1}-a}}. \quad (4.37)$$

For  $\epsilon_0$  small enough, the following holds for all  $(t, x) \in [-1, 0) \times B(0, \frac{R}{2})$ .

$$\text{If } \frac{1}{p-1} - a < \frac{1}{2}, \quad |u(t, x)| \leq C(a)\epsilon, \quad (4.38)$$

$$\text{If } \frac{1}{p-1} - a = \frac{1}{2}, \quad |u(t, x)| \leq C\epsilon(1 + |\ln(t)|), \quad (4.39)$$

$$\text{If } \frac{1}{p-1} - a > \frac{1}{2}, \quad |u(t, x)| \leq \frac{C(a)\epsilon}{|t|^{\frac{1}{p-1}-a-\frac{1}{2}}}. \quad (4.40)$$

**Corollary 4.8.** Let  $R > 0$  and  $0 < T_- < T_+$ . There exists  $\epsilon_0 > 0$ ,  $0 < r \leq R$  and  $C > 0$  such that the following holds. For any  $0 < \epsilon < \epsilon_0$ ,  $T \in [T_-, T_+]$  and  $u$  solution to (1.1) on  $[0, T) \times \mathbb{R}^d$  satisfying

$$\forall (t, x) \in [0, T) \times B(0, R), \quad |u(t, x)| \leq \frac{\epsilon}{(T-t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}, \quad (4.41)$$

one has:

$$\forall (t, x) \in [0, T) \times B(0, r), \quad |u(t, x)| \leq C\epsilon. \quad (4.42)$$

To prove Lemma 4.7, we need two technical Lemmas taken from [9], whose proof can be found there.

**Lemma 4.9** ([9]). Define for  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and  $0 < \theta < h < 1$  the integral  $I(h) = \int_h^1 (s-h)^{-\alpha} s^\theta ds$ . It satisfies:

$$\text{If } \alpha + \theta > 1, \quad I(h) \leq \left( \frac{1}{1-\alpha} + \frac{1}{\alpha + \theta - 1} \right) h^{1-\alpha-\theta}, \quad (4.43)$$

$$\text{If } \alpha + \theta = 1, \quad I(h) \leq \frac{1}{1-\alpha} + |\log(h)|, \quad (4.44)$$

$$\text{If } \alpha + \theta < 1, \quad I(h) \leq \frac{1}{1-\alpha-\theta}. \quad (4.45)$$

**Lemma 4.10** ([9]). If  $y$ ,  $r$  and  $q$  are continuous functions defined on  $[t_0, t_1]$  with

$$y(t) \leq y_0 + \int_{t_0}^t y(s) r(s) ds + \int_{t_0}^t q(s) ds$$

for  $t_0 \leq t \leq t_1$ , then for all  $t_0 \leq t \leq t_1$ :

$$y(t) \leq e^{\int_{t_0}^t r(\tau) d\tau} \left[ y_0 + \int_{t_0}^t q(\tau) e^{-\int_{t_0}^{\tau} r(\sigma) d\sigma} d\tau \right]. \quad (4.46)$$

**Proof of Lemma 4.7.** We only treat the case (i), as the proof is the same for the other cases. We first localize the problem, with  $\chi$  a smooth cut-off function, with  $\chi = 1$  on  $B(0, \frac{R}{2})$ ,  $\chi = 0$  outside  $B(0, R)$  and  $|\chi| \leq 1$ . We define

$$v := \chi u \quad (4.47)$$

whose evolution, from (1.1), is given by:

$$v_t = \Delta v + |u|^{p-1} v + \Delta \chi u - 2\nabla \cdot (\nabla \chi u). \quad (4.48)$$

We apply Duhamel's formula to (4.48) to find that for  $t \in [-1, 0)$ :

$$v(t) = K_{t+1} * v(-1) + \int_{-1}^t K_{t-s} * (|u|^{p-1} v + \Delta \chi u - 2\nabla \cdot (\nabla \chi u)) ds. \quad (4.49)$$

From (4.37) and (4.47), one has for free evolution term:

$$\|K_{t+1} * v(-1)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \epsilon. \quad (4.50)$$

We now find an upper bound for the other terms in the previous equation.

**Step 1** Case (i). For the linear terms, as  $\frac{1}{p-1} - a + \frac{1}{2} < 1$ , from (4.45) one has:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \int_{-1}^t K_{t-s} * (\Delta \chi u - 2\nabla \cdot (\nabla \chi u)) ds \right\|_{L^\infty} &\leq C \int_{-1}^t \frac{1}{(t-s)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \|u\|_{L^\infty(B(0, R))} ds \\ &\leq C \epsilon \int_{-1}^t \frac{1}{(t-s)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \frac{1}{|s|^{\frac{1}{p-1}-a}} ds \leq C(a)\epsilon. \end{aligned} \quad (4.51)$$

For the nonlinear term, as  $\frac{1}{p-1} - a < \frac{1}{2} < \frac{1}{2(p-1)} = \frac{d-2}{8}$  because  $d \geq 7$ , we compute, using (4.37):

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \int_{-1}^t K_{t-s} * (\chi |u|^{p-1} v) ds \right\|_{L^\infty} &\leq \int_{-1}^t \|u\|_{L^\infty(B(0,R))}^{p-1} \|v\|_{L^\infty} ds \\ &\leq \epsilon^{p-1} \int_{-1}^t \frac{1}{|s|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \|v\|_{L^\infty} ds. \end{aligned} \quad (4.52)$$

Gathering (4.50), (4.51) and (4.52), from (4.49), one has:

$$\|v(t)\|_{L^\infty} \leq C(a)\epsilon + \epsilon^{p-1} \int_{-1}^t \frac{1}{|s|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \|v\|_{L^\infty} ds.$$

Applying (4.46) one obtains:

$$\|v(t)\|_{L^\infty} \leq C(a), \epsilon, e^{\int_{-1}^t |s|^{-\frac{1}{2}} ds} \leq C(a)\epsilon$$

which from (4.47) implies the bound (4.38) we had to prove.  $\square$

We can now end the proof of Proposition 4.2.

**Proof of Proposition 4.2.** For any  $a \in B(0, R)$ , from (4.1), (4.13) and (4.14),  $w_{a,T}$  satisfies  $E(w_{a,T}(0, \cdot)) \leq \eta$  and:

$$|\Delta w_{a,T}| \leq \frac{1}{2} |w_{a,T}|^p + \eta T_+^{\frac{p}{p-1}}.$$

Applying Proposition 4.3 to  $w_{a,T}$ , one obtains that for any  $\eta' > 0$  if  $\eta$  is small enough:

$$\forall s \geq s\left(\frac{T_-}{4}\right), |w_{a,T}(s, 0)| \leq \eta'.$$

In original variables, this means:

$$\forall (t, x) \in B(0, R) \times \left[\frac{T_-}{4}, T\right), |u(t, x)| \leq \frac{\eta'}{(T-t)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}}.$$

Applying Corollary 4.8 for  $\eta'$  small enough, there exists  $r > 0$  such that

$$\forall (t, x) \in B(0, R) \times \left[\frac{T_-}{4}, T\right), |u(t, x)| \leq C\eta'.$$

Then, a standard parabolic estimate propagates this bound for higher derivatives, yielding the result (4.15).  $\square$

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## Appendix A. Parabolic estimates

We recall here some parabolic estimates. We refer to the proof of Theorem 8.18 in [1] for a proof of the Strichartz-type estimate. Let  $d \geq 2$ . We say that a couple of real numbers  $(q, r)$  is admissible if they satisfy:

$$q, r \geq 2, (q, r, d) \neq (2, +\infty, 2) \text{ and } \frac{2}{q} + \frac{d}{r} = \frac{d}{2}. \quad (A.1)$$

For any exponent  $p \geq 1$ , we denote by  $p' = \frac{p}{p-1}$  its Lebesgue conjugated exponent.

**Lemma 4.11** (Strichartz type estimates for solutions to the heat equation). *Let  $d \geq 2$  be an integer. The two following inequalities hold. For any  $t > 0$ ,*

$$\forall j \in \mathbb{N}, \forall q \in [1, +\infty], \|\nabla^j K_t\|_{L^q} \leq \frac{C(d, j)}{t^{\frac{d}{2q} + \frac{j}{2}}} \text{ where } \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{q'} = 1. \quad (A.2)$$

For any  $(q_1, r_1), (q_2, r_2)$  satisfying (A.1), there exists a constant  $C = C(d, q_1, q_2)$  such that for any source term  $f \in L^{q'_2}([0, +\infty), L^{r'_2}(\mathbb{R}^d))$ :

$$\left\| t \mapsto \int_0^t K_{t-t'} * f(t') dt' \right\|_{L^{q_1}([0, +\infty), L^{r_1}(\mathbb{R}^d))} \leq C \|f\|_{L^{q'_2}([0, +\infty), L^{r'_2}(\mathbb{R}^d))}. \quad (A.3)$$

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